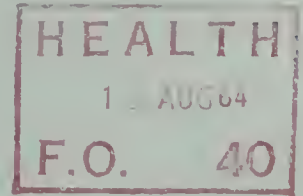


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BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1963

To: The Chairman and Members of the Blackrod Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1963.

In December I succeeded Dr. Leo Unsworth, so that much of the year under review passed under his supervision. I am sure that you would wish me to pay tribute to the long, understanding and wise service given by Dr. Unsworth who had succeeded his father in 1940. This is a break with a long tradition and one which has served Blackrod well.

General Statistics

Area in acres (31. 12. 63.)	..	..	..	2392.4
Population - Census 1961	..	..	..	3,600
Register General's Estimate of home population mid 1963	..	..	..	3,980
No. of inhabited houses at end of 1963	..			1,362
Rateable Value	..	..	..	£98,349
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..		£386

Social conditions including chief industries carried on in the area:-

Residential in character. Industries include Carpet Mfg. Rayon processing and Agriculture.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated population mid 1963	3,980
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<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	71	38	33
Illegitimate	3	-	3

Live birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population :-

Crude Rate 18.6

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-

Still - Birth rate per 1,000 total births 39.0

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births NIL

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 27.0

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births 27.0

Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births 27.0

Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births 64.9

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :-

Total (All Forms) -

Crude Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.6
Adjusted Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.8
Respiratory Tr. B.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
Malignant neoplasms etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.01

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths (All Forms) 25 17 42

<u>Causes of Death during 1963</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	3	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung	2	-	2
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous system	4	4	8
Coronary Disease - Angina	3	-	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease	3	6	9
Other Circulatory Disease	-	1	1
Pneumonia	3	-	3
Bronchitis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
Congenital Malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and Ill-defined diseases	2	1	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
	—	—	—
	25	17	42
	—	—	—

Infectious Disease

65 Cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

24	Scarlet Fever
6	Whooping Cough
34	Measles
1	Tuberculosis - Respiratory

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(National Insurance Act, 1948)

Nursing Arrangements

There is a practising midwife resident in the District, provided by the County Council.

Immunisation

The Clinic, 164 New Street, Blackrod, is open each Tuesday 2 - 4 p.m. Fifty-three sessions were held in 1963 and 1,786 attendances were made. The Doctor is present on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month for the immunisation of pre school children. School children are immunised at the School.

Maternity Services

Fifty-three Ante Natal Clinics were held during 1963 at the Clinic and 777 attendances were made.

Public Health Staff

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer and a Health Inspector who is also the Surveyor. A Health Visitor is provided by the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office at Leigh and the needs for the District are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

Mortuary

The Mortuary, situated at the Cemetery, is sufficient for the needs of the District.

General Health

The general state of the health of the community remained satisfactory. Infectious continued to be mild and gave rise to few complications. It is interesting to note that no male was registered as dying from Bronchitis, but that there were two deaths from cancer of the Lung.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

WATER SUPPLY

Source of Supply - The Urban District has its own water supply which consists of a catchment area of some 170 acres in extent, from which surface water and water from land springs is obtained and stored in a 20 million gallon impounding reservoir. The Catchment Area is situated in the Horwich Urban District and is mainly moorland in character. The undertaking is adequate for the needs of the District at the present time and bulk supplies are taken by the Adlington Urban District Council and the Makerfield Water Board for the Parish of Haigh. A contract has now been placed for the duplication of part of the trunk main from the Council's Reservoir to the Booster Station at the junction of Station Road with Manchester Road. The Contractor is to start laying this main in January, 1964, and when completed will improve the poor pressure in the distribution system at the higher points in the district during periods of heavy demand. The Council's Consultants have also been instructed to prepare for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for Loan Sanction to complete the new main to the Horwich Urban District Reservoir from which the district will eventually be supplied and the water from Blackrod's reservoir will be conveyed to the Horwich Reservoir for treatment through the Horwich Urban District filters.

Seventeen samples of water have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for bacteriological examination, thirteen samples were taken from the distribution system, nine samples being found satisfactory and four samples indicating bacterial pollution. Four samples taken from the feeder streams and land springs supplying water to the Council's Reservoir were found to have both coliform and Faecal coliform organisms present. One sample of water has been sent for chemical analysis and this was found to be satisfactory.

Continuous Chlorination by Chlorine Gas is carried to the water as it enters the distribution mains. The plant is automatic in operation and dosage is regulated in relation to flow.

Tinned lead pipe is used as a precaution against plumbo solvent action on lead.

The total number of houses with a piped water supply is :-

a) Directed to Houses	1,428
b) Standpipes	NIL
c) From Private Wells	1 unoccupied

Sewage and Sewage Disposal

The sewage is treated at two main outfalls these being Nightingale Farm and Scot Lane. The treatment consists of primary settlement in retention tanks and final treatment by land irrigation. The system is unsatisfactory and the sewers, sections of which are overloaded, require renewal. A scheme for the improvement of the whole sewer system and for the treatment of the effluent at the Horwich Urban District Works has been with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for some considerable time now. Housing development in certain areas of the district is being held up awaiting improvement to the sewer system.

Food Inspections

The following types of food premises are to be found in the District and these are visited at regular intervals.

General Groceries and Provision Dealers	15
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	2
Fish Mongers and those selling poultry and game	-
Meat Shops (Bakers and Purveyors of cooked and preserved Meats)	2
Bakers and Confectioners	2
Fried Fish Shops	2
Shops selling sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream	3
Licensed Premises Clubs and Canteens	13

Number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Butchers (Manufacturers of Sausages)	2	7
Bakers (Manufacturers of Meat Pies)	NIL	-

Meat Inspection

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the District, all carcass meat being slaughtered outside the District. Regular visits are made to Butchers shops to examine meat offered for sale.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Inspections have been made to premises to which regulations apply and instruction given as required to persons employed in the shops.

Milk and Dairies Regulations

Ninety-three samples of milk have been taken from producer and producer retailers and submitted for analysis.

Forty-eight samples were submitted for Tuberculosis, 47 were negative and 1 no result, 42 samples submitted for Methylene Blue Test, 28 were satisfactory, 6 unsatisfactory, and 8 void samples, 45 samples submitted for Brucellosis, 14 positive on Ring Test, 28 satisfactory, 1 positive on Biological Test and 7 negative.

Scavenging of Streets

The Lancashire County Council are the Highways Authority for Trunk Class I and II Road and undertake the maintenance and scavenging of these roads. Class III Roads and District Roads are maintained by the District Council and these are scavenged at frequent intervals and a mechanical sweeper, in addition, is engaged to sweep these roads at weekly intervals.

Shops and Offices

Thirty-four shops have been visited in connection with the Shops Acts and Food Hygiene Regulations.

Public Cleansing

One thousand, three hundred and ninety six moveable dust bins were in use at the end of the year. Dust bins for domestic premises are supplied by the Council and the cost being chargeable on the rates.

Refuse is collected and disposed by direct labour. One 12 cu. yards rear loading type of refuse collection vehicle is used for the purpose. A motor driver and 3 loaders are regularly employed on this work and a weekly collection of refuse bins is maintained with the exception of 2 weeks over the holiday period, 1 week in July and 1 week in September, when the workmen had their Annual Holidays.

The refuse is being disposed of on the Council tips in Blundell Lane by filling 2 large depressions in agricultural land and restoring the levels to the surrounding fields level. The whole of the refuse is being tipped, there being no separation of waste paper, metals etc. No special arrangements are made for the collection or disposal from trade premises other than shops which is collected at the same time as the domestic refuse. There are only 2 pail closets left in the District, arrangements are made for the collection with the house refuse by admixture with the refuse.

Offensive Trades

There are no premises registered in the District in relation to an establishment where an offensive trade is carried out.

Schools

There are three Junior and one Secondary Modern School in the District. The sanitary accommodation is adequate and all have fresh water type closets. At the Junior Schools the closet accommodation is detached from the main school building and some difficulty is experienced in winter time to maintain flushing arrangement of the closets owing to the water pipes being prone to freezin up owing to there exposed position. The washing facilities at the Schools is satisfactory and the yards surface is also satisfactory.

Bakehouses

There are no Bakehouses in use at the present time.

Factories and Workshops

No. in District - 15

Carpet Manufacturers	1	Boot and Shoe Repairs	1
Textile Warehouse	1	Building Sites	4
Joiner	1	Metal Broker	1
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	2	Light Engineering	2
		Processing Peat Moss	1

No. of Visits - 15

Rodent Control

Fifty-five premises have been visited, 9 minor infections of rats have been treated and 7 minor infections of mice have also been treated. Regular treatments have been made at the Council's refuse tips and the Sewer Systems have been treated at 6 monthly intervals.

Public Sanitary Conveniences

Two public conveniences are provided in the district, one is sited at the junction of Station Road with Manchester and one at the junction of Blackhorse Street with Chorley Road and Hill Lane. A bus shelter is incorporated in the buildings, and conveniences for both sexes are at opposite ends of the bus shelters and in each case consists of a water closet for women, whilst for the men, there is a two stall fireclay white glazed urinal and a water closet. Drainage is to public sewer, each closet have a proper flushing tank and the urinals have automatic flushing devices. Wash basins are not provided at these conveniences.

Closet Accommodation

Privy Middens	NIL
No. of Fresh Water Closets	1,520
No. of Waste Water Closets	NIL
No. of Houses on Water Carriage Systems	1,427

Housing

The District Council have no housing schemes under construction at the present time. Forty-four private dwellings have been constructed and occupied during the year. Twelve unfit houses have been demolished, five of the families being re-housed in Council property as they became empty.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health

Council Offices,
BLACKROD,
Nr. Chorley.

3rd April, 1964.

